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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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BALTIMORE COUNTY DRUG SMUGGLER SENTENCED

Baltimore, Maryland - Allen F. Loucks, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that today United States District Court Chief Judge Benson Everett Legg sentenced Eric John Foss, age 28, of Baltimore, Maryland to 145 months in prison followed by 4 years of supervised release for conspiring to distribute more than 50 kilograms of cocaine.

According to the statement of facts entered into evidence at his guilty plea on November 4, 2004, Foss participated in the smuggling of kilogram quantities of cocaine into Maryland from New York City from January 2003 to August 2003. The cocaine was usually transported to the White Marsh area of Baltimore County via motor vehicles equipped with hidden compartments. Once smuggled into Maryland, Foss would take delivery of his portion of the cocaine from co-defendant Robert Wallace who was sentenced last week, and sell portions to other drug traffickers in the Baltimore metropolitan area who, in turn, would resell it to other individuals.

The case was jointly investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Baltimore County Police Department, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Baltimore City Police Department, the Maryland State Police, the Harford County Sheriff's Department and the United States Attorney's Office. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Charles Peters and Martin Clarke.